Lowell May 1, 1859

Dear Brother

I take the present opportunity of writing you in answer to your last and was very happy to hear from you. I was truly sorry to hear of your troubles but I can assure you, you would be no better off here under your present circumstances for as I told you before it is all girls work here and the men are very poorly paid. In the corporations very few as I have heard speak get more than 50 cents a day which is half a dollar so you may judge from that whether you are not doing as well at the present time as being here. I went over last Sunday to see an Englishman that comes from Oldham he is a cotton spinner and has been here these 2 years but has got no spinning yet but is working on a farm. He has a wife and 3 children and only gets 50 cents per day. Very well he has to pay 4 dollars a month for a small cottage in the centre of a wood to live in. Consequently he can have only 8 dollars a month to support is wife and 3 children and himself. Were as I pay 10 dollars a month for only myself and am quite satisfied with that for their are plenty pay more. So you will see it is not all gold in America. Nor all that come that do well but there are some scores who would most gladly come back if the had the opportunity. I was truly sorry when I saw them in their lonely habitation and could not find in my heart to have them in their destitution without first relieving them which I did with a dollar and the was as thankful in receiving it as though it was pounds. I have tried since amongst a few English friends that I am acquainted with to raise a little of something for them but the are two cold hearted to part with anything. Self seems to be the leading law here and if you cannot help yourself there is very few that cares to look where you are and even feel ashamed to say the know you or even acknowledge you as a county man but I do thank God that I have been thus far very fortunate in work and of course I begin to feel myself quite at home. I care for no one here.
wages here are something better than home in my branch of business but at the same time provisions cloths tools each and everything is dearer here than at home. I myself spent over 70 dollars in clothes since I first came here from that you would infer I was well clothed but not so had I been at home I could have been as well rigged out for about 7 or 8 pounds and with far superior cloth for here it is comparitively worthless compared with English cloth and as regards my tools well of course I have got a few but it will take me some time to get properly rigged out. I did think when I wrote the last letter to you that before I wrote again I would send my mother 5 dollars but it is no use. I can not get the oppertunity yet you are well aware that I received 100 dollars from my sister when I was home to come here with 4 years well of course she stands in need of it now and I purpose beginning to pay her next month wich will keep me poor for some time to come but it is no use one must make the best of it and when I spoke to her about sending my mother the 5 dollars she said where is the use if she cannot get it you perhaps are not aware that there is 5 dollars or should I say A sovereings in little [----] Greens that ought to have been given to my Mother previous to my leaving home and the last letter we received from Milton Winward she has received nothing but one pair of slippers wich was, 2.06 from them so what can be the meaning of such work as that I dont know. I saw the letter that was directed to my sister Sarah and I must say of all the impudence and ignorance put together it was the most insulting.I wish her to let me have it I would have sent it back to you so that you could have seen it for yourself. I wrote an answer to him in the name of my sister but I could not write what I should have liked or I would have told him pretty plainly what he both is now and ever has been to my Mother. he wrote in his letter that he was to be trusted with my Mother but not with her money and said it was providence that directed it to him as the money was lying there as though there was some great sin in sending to Josephs instead of to them. he likewise says that my Mother is very happy and comfortable where she is
and says that my Mother says she don’t know where she could be more comfortable than where she is under all her affection did my Mother ever utter such words as these. I know better she never did and of course you know as well as I do. He trows out a very gentle hint at me. he says that my mother says she is sorrow that she should be led astray in the thoughts of her not being comfortable some one has said something about her that she knows nothing of and of course wich is not true, but would my sister have allowed me to have answered that offer according, to my wish I would have told him what he was and how far he was to be trusted according to my little knowledge of them. 
I have not forgotten that there is something like 3 L 10s, of money in there hands wich was nothing better than a dead robbery and yet talks of christianity and uprightness as though he was a perfect one yes I say he is a perfect rougue and if he can finger my Mother money I know is ends are satisfied but my Mother might die he would never trouble if no one else made him but I thank god I am far from him but still I can never think of them but children to keep that money from her if I had never wrote to Bury about that I question wether ever it would have come to light or not. 
I should be very happy to hear of Marks elevation if it is to be so term wich I hope it will but whatever you do cheer him on and dont let him lack spirit wich is the greatest curse a man could be trouble with. I have seen more of that since I came here then ever I did in my life before. Whatever you do infuse a dominant independent spirit in all your children and you will give them something superior to wealth to carry them through this world there is a man here wich landed just one month before me we both worked together when first I came here but he was a poor spirit-less thing and took offence at young Bull and all such frivolous things and the consequences is, he is in is (fourth) shop now changing about first in then out and consequently gathers no moss. Wearing the same cloths he came
here in and not been able to get rigged out yankee like and conse-
quently young Bull still and I am sorry to say very poor in the 
hargain. I often talked to him but he has no spirit and consequently 
comparitively worthless. There are scores told me since I came here the 
ever saw one settle down so contently as I have done but of course 
I am at home and when I get a glass of beer the yankee will say here is 
a young Bull I will reply yes Old England forever with all thy 
faults I love thee still. I am not ashamed to own my country and 
the very often tell me the like me the better for it but the truth is I 
shall never be a yankee and I always aknowledge it frankly 
but let me tell you the court my company more than I do thes and several 
times have the came for me to go and have a walk with them wich of course I 
always accept. You will please remember me to my Mother and tell her 
to cheer up her spirits and rest perfectly well satisfied about her son 
John for he is in the land of the liveing nd almost a teetotaler not quite 
but a very regular attender of church and be sure when you write again 
to let me know wether Mother has received that money Joseph or not 
as she has no occasion to go short of anything if she will let us know and perhaps 
she will live to hear my voice again yet as there is almost one twelve month 
gone since I left home but before I come again I must have what will bring 
me back and likewise my youngster you will give my love to James and 
Ellen stansfield and tell them that there is no fear of me forgetting them 
but of course it will take a time to get properly on my .feet and pay all 
arears there is Mr. Smith and James Crabtree and a few more I owe 
little sums to but there is not one amongst them but what shall be paid every 
cent I owe them and for the present the must trust in providence and wait 
patiently for the good times coming. The had faith when I was home dont 
let them lose it in me know for I promise the shall be paid and I should 
be very glad to hear how ther are getting on. So that when you answer 
this you will have a long list of particulars for me you must give 
my love to Nancy and tell her I am truly thankfull to hear of her 
prosperity and hope the David will be attentive and industrious in his 
new undertaking and when chose a finished workman. Should you ever 
see any of Mother I should like to have John Mothers address sent 
me and if you dont know Mothers you will be able to get it of Joseph 
Woodcock I should feel truly obliged if you would enclose it in your 
next to me. So I must conclude with my best love to you all and 
all enquiring friends. John Wood.